

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 A-01 OPR-02 SY-04 CU-04 NIC-01

OMB-01 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /139 W

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P 241627Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7541

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, LE

SUBJECT: AUB STRIKE BROKEN BY GOL

SUMMARY: BETWEEN TWO AND THREE O'CLOCK THIS MORNING LEBANESE POLICE, ACTING ON FORMAL TRESPASS COMPLAINT MADE BY AUB, ENTERED THE CAMPUS AND QUICKLY ARRESTED SOME 60 STUDENTS WHO WERE OCCUPYING BUILDINGS. GOL AND INTERESTED PRIVATE GROUPS PUBLICIZING VANDALISM AND LEFTIST SLOGANS FOUND IN BUILDINGS. PUBLIC REACTION FAVORABLE TO GOL AND AUB THUS FAR. END SUMMARY.

2. SOME 200 LEBANESE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES ENTERED AUB CAMPUS AT 0200 APRIL 23, ARRESTING SOME 60 STUDENTS (15 JORDANIANS, 1 LIBYAN, 45 LEBANESE) WITHOUT ANY VIOLENCE IN TEN-MINUTE OPERATION. SOME 100 GENDARMES REMAIN ON CAMPUS TO ASSURE ORDER. GOL ACTED AFTER JUDICIAL FINDING OF VANDALISM, PURSUANT TO COMPLAINT BY AUB ADMINISTRATION, AND FOLLOWING CAREFUL PUBLICITY BUILDUP, INCLUDING STUDENT PETITION FOR RETURN TO CLASSES SIGNED BY 2,000 STUDENTS. EMBASSY AWARE OF OPERATION ALTHOUGH NOT OFFICIALLY INFORMED OR CONSULTED BY EITHER AUB OR GOL.

2. SURVEY OF BUILDINGS, PARTICULARLY OFFICE AREAS INCLUDING PRESIDNET KIRKWOOD'S OWN OFFICE, SHOWS INCREDIBLE DEGREE OF VANDALISM.

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DALISM. NO AREA ESCAPED SPRAY PAINT CAN AND HUGE SLOGANS AND

SYMBOLS, INCLUDING HAMMER AND SICKLE DEFACE EVERY POSSIBLE SURFACE. ANTI-AMERICAN AND ANTI-ADMINISTRATION REMARKS SCRATCHED INTO POLISHED DESK TOPS. BROKEN GLASS, BROKEN FURNITURE AND CONTENTS OF FORCED FILING CABINETS LITTER THE FLOORS.

3. MUCH OF LITTER IS SIMPLE AFTERMATH OF PROLONGED OCCUPATION WITHOUT CUSTODIAL SERVICE AND SHOULD YIELD TO BROOM AND SCRUB BRUSH. HOWEVER, THEFT OR DESTRUCTION OF FILES AND RECORDS, TELEPHONES, OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND COPYING EQUIPMENT (ALL OF WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RENDERED INOPERATIVE BY MISUSE) AND BREAKING UP OF CLASSROOM FURNITURE WILL HAMPER TASK OF REOPENING UNIVERSITY QUICKLY.

4. AUB ADMINISTRATION IS, NEVERTHELESS, MAKING EVERY EFFORT RESUME CLASSES BY MONDAY APRIL 29. SCHOOL OBVIOUSLY HAS NOT YET COME TO GRIPS WITH HOW REST OF SEMESTER WILL BE RUN AND WHAT CREDIT IF ANY WILL BE GIVEN. THEY BELIEVE, AND GOL AND EM-BASSY AGREE THAT IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET THE SCHOOL OPEN AND STUDENTS BACK IN CLASS.

5. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN REACTION TO GOL MOVE BUT SITUATION THUS FAR IS UNDER CONTROL. GOL, HAVING MADE THE DECISION TO GET TOUGH WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL BE FURTHER REINFORCED BY REVELATION OF OBVIOUS PRO-COMMUNIST, ANTI-AMERICAN BIAS OF STRIKERS, IS COMMITTED TO GETTING ITS EDUCATIONAL HOUSE BACK IN ORDER AND WILL CONTINUE BE TOUGH.

6. IN NOON PRESS CONFERENCE MINISTER OF INTERIOR MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THERE WERE DEFINITE LIMITS TO GOL PATIENCE AND EXPLAINED THAT HANDFUL OF STUDENTS WERE IN EFFECT DEPRIVING ALL OF THEIR EDUCATION AND RESORTING TO MASSIVE DESTRUCTION FOR WHICH THERE NO JUSTIFICATION. GOL HAS ENSURED FULL TV COVERAGE OF DAMAGE AND SLOGANS, WHICH WILL FURTHER TURN PUBLIC OPINION IN SUPPORT OF GOL AND AUB. AUB ALUMNI MEETING EVENING APRIL 23 AND EXPECTED SUPPORT AUB AND GOL.

DECON 4/24/75.

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